# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1299
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
INTRODUCTION OF HOURLY BERTH HIRE CHARGES
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Tariff Authority for Major Ports has decided to introduce hourly berth hire charges instead of the existing 8-hour basis rates in all the major ports with effect from June 1, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to be beneficial in terms of earnings and removal of the congestion?

## Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI. T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Hourly berth hire charges instead of the 8 hour basis rate were introduced by Tariff Authority for Major Ports from 1st June, 2003, after consulting the Major Port Trusts and the Port users.

(c) Under the revised arrangement, berth hire charges will be paid only for the time the berth is occupied, rounded off to next complete hour and not for entire shift of 8 hours, even if berth was occupied for less than 8 hours. This may induce ships to vacate berths immediately on completion of cargo loading/unloading, thereby making berths available for berthing of waiting ships as soon as these are vacated. This would enable ports to handle more ships and hence more cargo.